

In re Application of ANDREW et al.
Application No. 09/452,421

Amendments to the Claims

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A computer software application development system comprising:

- ~~a first group of system users responsible for writing computer software code;~~
- a ~~second~~ first group of system users responsible for modifying one or more external resource files written in a markup language, at least one of the external resource files comprising at least one extensible markup language (XML) tag associated with at least one of a plurality of platform namespaces;
- ~~a second group of system users responsible for writing computer software code;~~
- a graphical control locator for locating the one or more external resource files; and
- a parser for identifying a requested parameter stored in the one or more external resource files.

21-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 wherein at least one system user in the ~~second~~ first group of system users cannot access the computer software code directly without authorization.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 wherein at least one system user in the ~~first~~ second group of system users cannot access the one or more external resource files without authorization.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing security in a computer software application development environment, the method comprising:
creating one or more external resource files for storing data in a markup language for implementing resources, at least one of the external resource files comprising at least

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one extensible markup language (XML) tag associated with at least one of a plurality of platform namespaces;

using a graphical control locator for retrieving information from the one or more resource files in response to a request for a resource;

providing a first user with authority to modify the one or more resource files and execute an application program associated with the one or more resource files; and

restricting the first user from accessing and modifying source code for the application program.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the method further includes restricting a second user from accessing and modifying the one or more resource files.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the first user is a user interface designer.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein restricting the second user comprises restricting a developer from accessing and modifying the one or more resource files.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein restricting the first user comprises using a password to determine whether the first user should be allowed access to the source code.

33-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for carrying out a method for enhancing security in a computer software application development environment, the method comprising:
creating one or more external resource files for storing data in a markup language for implementing resources, at least one of the external resource files comprising at least

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one extensible markup language (XML) tag associated with at least one of a plurality of platform namespaces;

using a graphical control locator for retrieving information from the one or more resource files in response to a request for a resource;

providing a first user with authority to modify the one or more resource files and execute an application program associated with the one or more resource files; and

restricting the first user from accessing and modifying source code for the application program.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein restricting the first user comprises using a key to determine whether the first user should be allowed access to the source code.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein restricting the second user comprises restricting a text evaluator from accessing and modifying the one or more resource files.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the method further comprises restricting a second user from accessing and modifying the one or more resource files.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the first user is a user interface designer.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein restricting the second user comprises restricting a developer from accessing and modifying the one or more resource files.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein restricting the second user comprises restricting a text evaluator from accessing and modifying the one or more resource files.

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44. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein restricting the first user from accessing and modifying the source code comprises using a password to determine whether the first user should be allowed access to the source code.
45. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein restricting the first user from accessing and modifying the source code comprises using a key to determine whether the first user should be allowed access to the source code.
46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the one or more external resource files are generated dynamically.
47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the one or more external resource files are generated dynamically.
48. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the one or more external resource files are generated dynamically.
49. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein different ones of at least some of the plurality of platform namespaces correspond to different computing platforms.
50. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein different ones of at least some of the plurality of platform namespaces correspond to different computing platform versions.
51. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein different ones of at least some of the plurality of platform namespaces correspond to different graphical user interface (GUI) implementations.

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52. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the system comprises a plurality of graphical control locators and each graphical control locator corresponds to at least one of the plurality of platform namespaces.

53. (New) The system of claim 52, wherein each graphical control locator corresponds to different ones of the plurality of platform namespaces.

54. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein:
the system further comprises:
a plurality of graphical controls; and
a runtime tree built from the one or more external resource files in response to a resource request that references at least one of the plurality of graphical controls;
at least some of the plurality of graphical controls have a parent-child relationship with others of the plurality of graphical controls; and
a reference to the runtime tree is sent to each graphical control in a parent-child relationship with the at least one of the plurality of graphical controls referenced by the resource request.

55. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein at least one of the external resource files comprises a plurality of extensible markup language (XML) tags, the plurality of extensible markup language tags comprising:
at least one extensible markup language tag recognized by the graphical control locator; and
at least one extensible markup language tag not recognized by the graphical control locator.

56. (New) The system of claim 55, wherein:
the system further comprises an application, the application comprising at least one graphical control; and

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at least some of the information contained in the at least one extensible markup language tag recognized by the graphical control locator is supplied to at least one of the at least one graphical control.

57. (New) The system of claim 56, wherein the information contained in each of the at least one extensible markup language tag not recognized by the graphical control locator is supplied to the application.

58. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the graphical control locator is a component of a computer operating system.